

Senate Bill 503

By: Senators Mullis of the 53rd, Pearson of the 51st, Williams of the 19th, Rogers of the 21st, Tolleson of the 20th and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

To amend Article 4 of Chapter 5 of Title 21 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to public officials' conduct and lobbyist disclosure, so as to require lobbyists to file disclosure reports of expenditures on members of the State Transportation Board; to provide for related matters; to provide for an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

SECTION 1.

Article 4 of Chapter 5 of Title 21 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to public officials' conduct and lobbyist disclosure, is amended by revising paragraph (5) of Code Section 21-5-70, relating to definitions, as follows:

"(5) 'Lobbyist' means:

(A) Any natural person who, for compensation, either individually or as an employee of another person, undertakes to promote or oppose the passage of any legislation by the General Assembly, or any committee thereof, or the approval or veto of legislation by the Governor;

(B) Any natural person who makes a total expenditure of more than \$250.00 in a calendar year, not including the person's own travel, food, lodging expenses, or informational material, to promote or oppose the passage of any legislation by the General Assembly, or any committee thereof, or the approval or veto of legislation by the Governor;

(C) Any natural person who as an employee of the executive branch or judicial branch of state government engages in any activity covered under subparagraph (A) of this paragraph;

(D) Any natural person who, for compensation, either individually or as an employee of another person, undertakes to promote or oppose the passage of any ordinance or resolution by a public officer specified under subparagraph (F) or (G) of paragraph (22)

of Code Section 21-5-3, or any committee of such public officers, or the approval or veto of any such ordinance or resolution;

(E) Any natural person who makes a total expenditure of more than \$250.00 in a calendar year, not including the person's own travel, food, lodging expenses, or informational material, to promote or oppose the passage of any ordinance or resolution by a public officer specified under subparagraph (F) or (G) of paragraph (22) of Code Section 21-5-3, or any committee of such public officers, or the approval or veto of any such ordinance or resolution;

(F) Any natural person who as an employee of the executive branch or judicial branch of local government engages in any activity covered under subparagraph (D) of this paragraph;

(G) Any natural person who, for compensation, either individually or as an employee of another person is hired specifically to undertake influencing a public officer or state agency in the selection of a vendor to supply any goods or services to any state agency but does not include any employee of the vendor solely on the basis that such employee participates in soliciting a bid or in preparing a written bid, written proposal, or other document relating to a potential sale to a state agency; ~~or~~

(H) Any natural person who, for compensation, either individually or as an employee of another person, is hired specifically to undertake to promote or oppose the passage of any rule or regulation of any state agency; or

(I) Any natural person who, for compensation, either individually or as an employee of another person, undertakes to influence a member of the State Transportation Board in the selection of a vendor or contractor to supply any goods or services to the Department of Transportation."

SECTION 2.

Said article is further amended in Code Section 21-5-73, relating to disclosure reports by lobbyists, by revising subsection (d) as follows:

"(d) A person who is a lobbyist pursuant to subparagraph (A), (B), (C), (F), (G), ~~or~~ (H), or (I) of paragraph (5) of Code Section 21-5-70 shall file a disclosure report, current through the end of the period ending on July 31 and December 31 of each year, on or before August 5 and January 5 of each year."

SECTION 3.

This Act shall become effective upon its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming law without such approval.

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SECTION 4.

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All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.